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REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

Summary of the Response

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 have been canceled. New claims 15 – 21 have been added. Claims 1, 4-8 and 11-21 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to correct the deficiency noted by the Examiner. Specifically, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the driver is supported in electrical connections to the primary display module and the secondary display modules via the connector. In the disclosed embodiment, the driver is supported on the connector (e.g., flexible printed circuit board), in electrical connections to the primary and secondary display modules.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Toba (USPN 6907276). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On the outset, Applicant notes that the publication date of Toba is later than the effective filing date of the present invention. Given the traversal of the rejections below, Applicant has not yet considered the option of "swearing behind" Toba, but reserves the right to do so should it be necessary at a later date.

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 1 and 8 as amended recite "a connector electrically connecting the primary display module and secondary display module, wherein the connector is a flexible printed circuit board". Toba does not teach using a flexible printed circuit board to electrically connect a primary display module and a secondary display module. The Examiner conceded to such deficiency in Toba, as claims 2 and 3 have not been rejected as being anticipated by Toba. In fact, the Examiner also specifically stated that Toba does not teach the connector is substantially flexible, and the connector is a flexible printed circuit board. (See, paragraph 6 in the Office Action.)

Claims 1 and 8, and all the claims dependent therefrom, are therefore not anticipated by Toba.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 2-4 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toba (USPN 6907276) in view of Aoki et al. (USPN 7184010). Claims 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toba (USPN 6907276) in view of Sekura et al. (USPN

6198383). Claim 6-7 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toba (USPN 6907276) and Jacobsen et al. (USPN 6073034). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the limitations of original claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated in independent claim 1 (and similarly in independent claim 8). Independent claims 1 and 8 as amended require that the connector is a flexible printed circuit, which electrically connects the primary and secondary display module. Also noted above, the Examiner specifically stated that Toba does not teach the connector is substantially flexible, and the connector is a flexible printed circuit board. Aoki does not make up for the deficiencies of Toba. Aoki likewise does not teach the use of a flexible printed circuit board to electrically connect a primary display module and a secondary display module. Aoki merely discloses that a flexible printed circuit board may be connected to a side of a liquid crystal display panel. Consequently, even if Aoki can somehow be combined with Toba, such combination would not obtain the present invention as defined in original claims 3 and 10, now independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, remaining claims 2, 4, 9 and 11 dependent from claims 1 and 8 are likewise patentable over the combination of Toba and Aoki.

There is no teaching, suggestion, motivation, or any apparent reason to combine Toba and Aoki in the first place. Toba specifically require switches, in addition to drivers, which switches are provided between two displays in order to selectively control the displays. There is no indication anywhere in Toba and Aoki, how a flexible printed circuit board may connect the displays to achieve the intended purpose in Toba, or for any other purpose for that matter.

Given the amendments to claims 1 and 8 merely incorporated the limitations of original claims 3 and 10, should the Examiner reject the claims as amended based on a new ground of rejection in the next action, such next action should not be made final.

New Claims

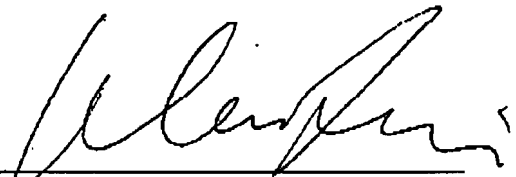
New claims 15-21 have been added to round out the coverage of the patentable aspects of the present invention. Newly added independent claim 15 recites a connector electrically connecting the primary display module and secondary display module, wherein the connector is independent of any switches.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 15-21 are patentable over the references of record, including Toba and Aoki. Toba provide switches in the connection between two displays. There is no apparent reason to combine Aoki to Toba since there is no justifiable reason to replace the switchless connector in claim 15 replaced by a flexible printed circuit board to electrically connect two displays.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

Respectfully submitted,



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